

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections**1. Name**

historic Cut-Off Bridge

and/or common Casey's Monument

2. Location

street & number 6.3 miles south and 1.7 miles east of St. Paul not for publication

city, town St. Paul ☒ vicinity of

state Kansas code 20 county Neosho code 133

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Abandoned

4. Owner of Property

name Steve Bennett

street & number R, R, 1

city, town McCune ☒ vicinity of state Kansas**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds

street & number Neosho County Courthouse

city, town Erie state Kansas

6. Representation in Existing Surveystitle Inventory of Historic Bridges
Kansas Department of Transportation has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ nodate 1980-83 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Kansas State Historical Society

city, town Topeka state Kansas

7. Description

Condition

☐ excellent
☐ good
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☒ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Neosho Cut-Off Bridge 6.3 miles south and 1.7 miles east of St. Paul, Kansas once spanned the Big Slough of the Neosho River until floods rerouted the channel around the west end of the structure. The bridge is 156 feet long and 16.5 feet wide curb to curb. The roadway was constructed 22 feet above low water level. Portions of the railings and balusters are missing and there is a degree of deterioration of the concrete on the roadway brackets. The bridge does offer a unique opportunity to view the abutment design as both are exposed and due to the fact that it is abandoned the possibilities of preservation are quite good.

The Cut-Off Bridge consists of two filled spandrel arches. Each span is made up of a reinforced concrete arch ring which springs from and is disposed between an abutment and a pier. Reinforced concrete spandrel walls rise from each side of the arch rings and are used to retain the earthen fill which loads the arch. This earth fill "loads" the arch, which allows for even distribution of the live loads and helps to strengthen the arch. The turned balusters of the railing are located on both sides of the roadway. The roadway is cantilevered by the use of brackets over the 8' wide arch ring.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1924

Builder/Architect Daniel B. Luten

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Neosho Cut-Off bridge 1.7 miles east and 6.3 miles south of St. Paul, Kansas retains its integrity of location, design, setting, materials, feeling, and association. It embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type and method of construction no longer being used, namely the construction of a roadway supported by a reinforced concrete arch ring which is loaded by earthen fill which, in turn, is retained by reinforced concrete spandrel walls. This particular structure was built by the Topeka Bridge and Construction Company which was the area's agent for the Luten design for reinforced concrete bridges and may yield information important to the history of engineering.

The June 8, 1923 issue of the Chanute Daily Tribune reported the awarding of Cut-Off Creek bridge contract to the Topeka Bridge and Construction Company. The cost of the structure was to be \$16,652.

Newspapers fail to yield any more information about the bridge but the last payment for the bridge shown in the county commissioners records appears on February 4, 1924.

The Cut-Off bridge was built to route traffic across the Big Island to South Mound in hopes that the little town could create some competition for St. Paul. After the floods of 1925 and 1926, however, the river had changed channel so that bridge no longer crossed it but stood entirely on the east bank. According to Arthur Shephard, a life-long area resident, a wooden addition was put up after the 1925 flood but the 1926 flood shifted the river's course even farther to the west and the wooden approach was washed out. Plans on file at the Kansas Department of Transportation show that yet another addition was considered, this time a steel truss. After less than three years use the Cut-Off bridge was abandoned and dubbed "Casey's Monument" after Jack Casey, the county commissioner who favored its construction.

THIS STATEMENT REFLECTS CURRENT KNOWLEDGE AND IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

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Continuation sheet

Item number 9.

Page 1

9. Bibliography

"Contract Awarded for New Bridges," Chanute Daily Tribune, June 8, 1923, p. 8, c. 4.

"To Complete Road Across the County," Chanute Daily Tribune, June 13, 1923, p. 1, c. 3.

"Contracts Let for 5 Bridges," St. Paul Journal, August 14, 1924, p. 1, c. 3.

"The Topeka Bridge Company . . .," St. Paul Journal December 18, 1924, p. 4, c. 5.

"River Floods Big Island," Chanute Daily Tribune, September 16, 1926, p. 1, c. 1.

"Biggest Flood," St. Paul Journal, September 16, 1926, p. 1, c. 3.

"The Flood is Past," St. Paul Journal, October 7, 1926, p. 1, c. 5.

"River Out Again," St. Paul Journal, October 7, 1926, p. 1, c. 2.

"Caught by High Water," St. Paul Journal, October 7, 1926, p. 1, c. 2.

Neosho County Commissioners Docket, Volume M, June 1, 1923, page 239, located at Neosho County Courthouse, Erie, Kansas.

Plans and Files, Design Department, Kansas Department of Transportation, Topeka, Kansas, Microfilm Roll #36, Frame 238+.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet, item #9.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name South Mond, Kans.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

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4	1	4	4	2	7	0
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Zone Easting Northing

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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Verbal boundary description and justification

That property on and over which the bridge is built 6.3 miles south and 1.7 miles east of St. Paul, Kansas. SW $\frac{1}{4}$, S17, T30S, R21E. Includes bridge superstructure and supporting piers and abutments.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Larry Jochims, Research Historian and Michael Snell

organization Kansas State Historical Society date

street & number 10th and Jackson Streets telephone (913) 296-2973

city or town Topeka state Kansas

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

 national x state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title date

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

